

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to further define ring C. Support is found, for example, at page 5, line 35 to page 36, line 6.

Claim 1 is further amended and claims 6, 8 and 33 are amended to further define ring D and ring E. Support is found, for example, at page 36, line 7 to page 37, line 34,

Claim 33 is further amended to further define ring J. Supoprt is found, for example, at page 26, lines 24-27.

Claim 28 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 29 and 30 and claims 29 and 30 are canceled.

No new matter is presented.

I. Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8, 23, 28 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 8 and 23

The Examiner states that in claim 8 (and 23 because it depends on claim 8), ring C is unclear. According to the Examiner, ring C is only defined by two characteristics: (1) it must contain at least one nitrogen atom; and (2) it is a fully saturated 4-15-membered heterocyclic group, and this definition is unclear because the ring can be a monocyclic ring such as aziridine or a bicyclic ring system such as decahydro-1H-benzo[c]azepine. In addition, ring C may contain 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms, 1 or 2 oxygen atoms, and/or 1 sulfur atom.

Claim 8 is amended herein to recite specific species of fully saturated 4- to 15-membered heterocyclic aryl rings as mentioned at page 35 of the specification, thereby clarifying the meaning of ring C.

Claim 28

The Examiner states that claim 28 recites a second therapeutic agent to be used in combination with a compound of claim 1 or 8, but that these agents are not included in the claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the specification and in view of the knowledge and skill in the art, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily be apprised of the scope of the claims with respect to the terms “reverse transferase inhibitor” and “protease inhibitor” in the context of a medicament for use in the treatment of HIV. Therefore, when properly read in light of the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to determine the meaning and scope of the claim in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Notwithstanding the above, claim 28 is amended by incorporating the features of claims 29 and 30 to facilitate and expedite examination.

Claim 33

The Examiner states that claim 33 is unclear as to the specific rings intended for rings D and E and because ring J is not defined within this claim. With respect to rings D and E, the Examiner states that the descriptions provided in the claim cover any ring system (monocyclic or polycyclic) with zero or more heteroatoms. As for ring J, the Examiner states that claim 33 states “ring J represents;” and is not complete.

Claim 33 is amended herein to limit ring D and ring E to those described in the specification at page 7, line 36 to page 37, line 34. Claims 1, 6 and 8 are amended in the same manner.

With respect to ring J, claim 33 is amended to limit ring J to those described at page 26, lines 24-26 of the specification and the substituents mentioned.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 6 and 10 are indicated as being free of the art.

Claims 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 28 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 29 and 30 as mentioned above, and claims 29 and 30 are canceled. Therefore the objection to claims 29 and 30 is rendered moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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